action, to submit Insitutional Development Plans for finalising the selection of remaining 300 ITIs to be upgraded in the next three years.

(c) Industry/Industry Assoication in the form of Institute Management Committees (IMCs) have been involved in all aspects of trainings in these ITIs, such as identification of sectors to be taken up, development of course curriculum, and to bring all round improvement in the functioning of ITIs.

(d) The trainees of the first batch were admitted in August, 2005 and are scheduled to complete their training in July, 2007.

Survey of child labourers

4532.SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

. (a) whether any survey has been done to identify the exact number of child labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government plan to do so soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Census conducted by the Registrar General of India is the only authentic data in respect of population of child labour in the country. As per the Census 2001, the number of child labour in the country is 1.26 crore.

(c) In additon, Government proposes to conduct a national level survey to assess the number of child labour in the country.

Non-payment of Provident Fund arrears paid by companies

4533. SHRI. ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of companies are reportedly not making payment of Provident Fund arrears to their employees despite repeated reminders;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) So far as un-exempted establishments are concerned, the contributions payable by the employer in respect of eligible employees of the establishments is remitted to the Employees' Provident Fund Organization and payment of Provident Fund to members is made by the EPFO in accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952. However, in respect of exempted establishments, payment of Provident Fund is made to their employees by the Board of Trustees of the exempted establishments.

There are a number of establishment in default of PF dues and the amount of arrears outstanding from 76,958 defaulting establishment was Rs. 2,530.07 crore as on 31.3.2006.

As soon as a default in PF contribution is detected or any complaint regarding non-settlement of claims by the exempted establishment or violation of the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952 is received, appropriate action is taken by the Organization, which includes:

(i) assessment of dues payable by the defaulting establishment.

(ii) recovery of dues in accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, which includes attachment and sale of properties, arrest and detention of defaulters, appointment of receiver to manage the defaulters' properties.

(iii) intervention by the Employees' Provident Fund Organization to get the claims settled in respect of employees of exempted establishments.

(iv) in case of violation of guidelines for grant of exemption, exemption is cancelled and necessary action is taken accordingly.